

Silverprint – news & views

CD & DVD Storage

Few things in life are certain apart from death, taxes, and having to find more space to store CD's, and DVD's. Apart from the space issue, few people realise there is also an archival problem, witness the damage to one of our own recorded CD's.



This batch of CD's was admittedly not stored in ideal conditions, (in fact it was in a damp garage), but it is interesting to see what can happen to a reputable brand (which we're not going to specify here) of CD if ageing is accelerated. The silver reflective layer has corroded in the areas adjacent to the gaps in the CD jewel case, and is virtually absent there. Surprisingly the CD is still playable, but it is obviously hanging on in by a whisker.

So what represents an ideal storage system for these discs? Reduction in container volume is highly desirable - a CD jewel case is 1cm in thickness while the CD it contains measures only 1.5mm, so there is considerable room for saving space.

Squaring this with archival requirements points towards that essential museum storage material polyester, which is thin, clear, flexible, and can be easily formed into a pocket. As when used for photographic storage, it forms an ideal barrier to external corrosive forces, and will not itself decompose or out-gas in any way.

Finally, what better way to store polyester CD sleeves than in an archival box with the same specifications as our archival print portfolio boxes? We have been supplying these for the last 20 years. After some brain storming, market research and the building of a number of prototypes, the finalised CD box is shown below. The options in polyester sleeves to fit it are shown on the right.

Silver-Store Disc System



So here it is, the CD plan for all reasons. The box is solidly constructed in 1300 micron archival folding boxboard and covered with library buckram, the same tough cleanable fabric used for our portfolio boxes. All other

materials, including tapes and adhesives are also of certified archival quality.



The box gains extra rigidity from the lining, which also divides it into two compartments. A special feature included with the box is a drop-in platform, also made of archival boxboard, which can be inserted into either the front

or rear compartments. This will adapt the space to accept standard square CD sleeves from different sources, which will display at the same height as the system's own longer 'portrait' sleeves when used in the other compartment.

Accessing the contents is beautifully fast and simple, and a collection of indexed 'DS' sleeves can be scanned through in a few seconds.



The lid, which overlaps forming a dust seal is hinged at the rear, and the front has a chromed label holder.

The box will hold 80 sleeved discs, 40 in each compartment, which in standard 1 cm jewel cases would require linear shelf storage of 80cm (32 inches!).



Left, the front slot with the insert for square sleeves. Box dimensions are 14x14cm (width & depth) and 18.5cm (height). The colour is black, although we may produce a range of colours later, depending on demand.

Sleeves for Silver-Store

Archival CD/DVD sleeves offered with the system are drawn from the SECOL polyester range. There are two varieties, both of which offer advantages depending on requirements.

1. 'DS' Sleeves



Made from a laminate of polyester and polyethylene, and incorporate a top pocket to contain an index card. Supplied as packs of 25 sleeves, with 25 index labels, 130 x 176mm

2. 'Library Edition' Polyester Sleeves



Type 'O' polyester is crystal clear transparent, and these sleeves incorporate a square pocket to hold the disc, welded to a larger portrait format pocket for holding supplementary information, eg CD or DVD booklets or full length index cards (not supplied). Packs

of 25, dimensions 125x160mm.

Prices

Silver-Store CD Box	£POA
Still to be fixed at time of going to press, but will be comparable to our print portfolio boxes. Stock should be available by the time this issue of B&W Photography emerges.	
Polyester CD/DVD Sleeves	
AS 25 sleeves	£xx.xx
'O' Polyester 25 sleeves	£xx.xx

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